

**CLASSIFICATION**      **S-E-C-R-E-T**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

## REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 20 June 1955

**SUBJECT**      Wide-Spread Dismissals of Employees  
                 of East German Enterprises

NO. OF PAGES 2

**PLACE  
ACQUIRED**

**NO. OF ENCLS.**  
**(LISTED BELOW)**

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DATE OF INFO.

**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

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**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

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1. Several large plants in East Germany dismissed by 19 January 1953:  
 Berlin-Oberbaumgarten, 200 employees;  
 Berlin-Hennigsdorf, 200 employees;  
 Dresden, 400 employees; VEB  
 workmen.

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2. [redacted] dismissed 400 workmen on 1 January 1955. [redacted] not lack of materials, but lack of orders. Some of the [redacted] allegedly found work in a shipyard in Rosslau. [redacted] [redacted] has dismissed 80 workmen, also for lack of work. [redacted]

- [illegible]

During January 1955. A part  
26 January 1955. Among the  
made no difference to what

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Some of the dismissed persons attempted to find work in another place in East Germany but their applications were rejected as soon as an inquiry was made at their former job in Berlin.

persons who had been ill over a period of time. The change in the organization of the plant was given as justification. The change made according to economic planning of East Berlin municipal council and government. Among the dismissed personnel were also

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On 12 January 1955, employees of railroad [redacted] dismissed according to plan. The dismissed [redacted] replaced by East German employees. The dismissals are planned as follows: first dismissals in the metalworking industry, second in light industry, and third in the food industry.

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1. Comment. At Moscow's directions, East Germany will at present not use political actions, such as blocking zonal boundary, the Autobahn and the air corridor. Intersocial trains will continue to run and domestic trade will be continued.

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3. a. ~~GOVERNMENT'S~~ UNEVALUATED INFORMATION  
 believed that this call, which

1. VEB Elektromotorenwerk, Dessau, dismissed 400 workmen on 1 January 1955. The reason for dismissal was not lack of materials, but lack of orders. Some of the dismissed employees have allegedly found work in a shipyard in Roslau. VEB Maschinenbau, Dessau, has dismissed 80 workmen, also for lack of work.
3. VEB Messgeraete- und Armaturenwerk Karl Marx, Magdeburg - Buckau, allegedly does not have enough contracts and therefore has transferred approximately 600 workmen, among them technical workers. But, since other plants have no possibility of using them, a propaganda action is being carried out for form employment.
4. VEB Schwermaschinenbau Ernst Thaelmann, Magdeburg - Buckau, has regrouped departments in January 1955. One part of the workshops of the plant works in three shifts, another one in two shifts, that is from 0800 to 1630 and from 2140 to 0600. These shifts were changed to 0600 to 1400 and from 1400 to 2200. This change makes possible the conclusion that a third shift is being prepared for all workshops. The plant has not dismissed employees, but has also not engaged new employees.
5. An East Berlin construction firm had planned to dismiss approximately 500 employees during January 1955. A part of the dismissals had already been carried through by 26 January 1955. Among the dismissed East German residents and it made no difference to what profession they belonged. Even SED members were affected. The reason for this action is unknown.

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6. The dismissed persons must immediately notify the labor bureau in their native towns. Some of the dismissed persons attempted to find work in another place in East Germany, but their applications were rejected as soon as an inquiry was made at their former job in Berlin. 25X1

7. VEB Stucco and Stone Works reduced its staff from 200 to 102 employees in January 1955. Among those dismissed were persons living in East Germany and sick persons who had been ill over a period of time. The change in the organization of the plant was given as justification. The change made according to economic planning of East Berlin municipal council and government. Among the dismissed personnel were also BGL and SED members.

3.

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9. On 12 January 1955, employees of railroad repair shop No. 1 were dismissed according to plan. The dismissed employees are to be replaced by East German employees. The dismissals are planned as follows: first dismissals in the metalworking industry, second in light industry, and third in the food industry.

Comment. At Moscow's Directions, East Germany will at present not use political actions, such as blocking zonal boundary, the Autobahn and the air corridor. Interzonal trains will continue to run and domestic trade will be continued.

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